

ENTANGLEMENT PROPERTIES OF POSITIVE OPERATORS WITH RANGES IN COMPLETELY ENTANGLED SUBSPACES

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ABSTRACT. We prove that the projection on a completely entangled subspace \mathcal{S} of maximum dimension in a multipartite quantum system obtained by Parthasarathy [Par04] is not positive under partial transpose. We next show that several positive operators with range in \mathcal{S} also have the same property. In this process we construct an orthonormal basis of \mathcal{S} and provide a linking theorem to link the constructions of completely entangled subspaces due to Parthasarathy, Bhat and Johnston.

1. INTRODUCTION

Entanglement is one of the key distinguishing features of quantum mechanics which separates the quantum description of the world from its classical counterpart. Ever since its discovery by Schrödinger [Sch35, Sch36] and its use by Einstein, Podolsky and Rosen [EPR35], the study of entanglement has played a central role in the area of quantum theory and a huge volume of literature is available in this context. In recent years, with the emergence of quantum information where quantum entanglement gets intimately connected to the computational advantage of quantum computers and to the security of quantum cryptographic protocols, its study has become even more important. A detailed discussion on these topics is available in the standard textbook of Nielsen and Chuang [NC10], and a lucid introduction by Parthasarathy [Par06] as well as a rigorous information theoretic account by Wilde [Wil13] are also very useful resources.

Entangled quantum states are those for which it is not possible to imagine the physical reality of a composite quantum system as two separate entities, even when there is no active interaction between the two subsystems. In general linear combinations of entangled states need not be entangled, however, there have been constructions of subspaces where every state in the subspace is entangled. The first such construction was through the unextendable product basis (UPB) by Bennett et. al. [BDM⁺99], and further extended by DiVincenzo et. al. [DMS⁺03]. More recently, Parthasarathy [Par04], Bhat [Bha06] and Johnston [Joh13] have, by their own different methods, constructed completely entangled subspaces \mathcal{S} of maximum possible dimension in the state space of multipartite quantum systems of finite dimensions. In such a subspace every state in the subspace is entangled.

In our work we focus on projection operators on such completely entangled subspaces. We give a linking theorem which links the constructions of Parthasarathy, Bhat and Johnston. Parthasarathy [Par04] gave an orthonormal basis for \mathcal{S} for the bipartite case of equal dimensions. We develop a method for construction of an orthonormal basis for the space \mathcal{S} in the general case. Further, we construct the (orthogonal) projection on the space \mathcal{S} and show that it is not

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positive under partial transpose at any level j . The proof utilizes the orthonormal basis for \mathcal{S} that we develop. Finally, we show that a large class of positive operators with range in \mathcal{S} are not positive under partial transpose at level j . This extends a substantial part of Johnston's result for the bipartite case to the multipartite case by an altogether different method.

The material in this paper is organized as follows: We begin Section 2 with the basics of quantum entanglement. We then describe the constructions of completely entangled subspaces by Parthasarathy, Bhat and Johnston. Next we give a theorem linking these three constructions. Then we give a construction procedure of an orthonormal basis for these spaces. In Section 3 we discuss our main results regarding the entanglement properties of projection operators on completely entangled subspace as also of certain positive operators with support in this space. Section 4 offers some concluding remarks.

2. COMPLETELY ENTANGLED SPACES

We begin with some well known concepts and results.

2.1. Entanglement.

Definition 2.1. *A finite dimensional quantum system is described by a finite dimensional complex Hilbert space \mathcal{H} . A Hermitian, positive semidefinite operator $\rho \in \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{H})$, the algebra of linear operators on \mathcal{H} to itself, with unit trace is said to be a state of the system \mathcal{H} . Rank 1 states are called pure states. A pure state can be written as an outer product $\rho = |\psi\rangle\langle\psi|$ where $|\psi\rangle \in \mathcal{H}$ and $\langle\psi|\psi\rangle = 1$.*

Definition 2.2. *A state ρ acting on a bipartite system $\mathcal{H}_1 \otimes \mathcal{H}_2$ is said to be separable if it can be written as*

$$(1) \quad \rho = \sum_{j=1}^m p_j \rho_j^{(1)} \otimes \rho_j^{(2)}, \quad p_j > 0, \quad \sum_{j=1}^m p_j = 1,$$

where $\rho_j^{(1)}$ and $\rho_j^{(2)}$ are states in the system \mathcal{H}_1 and \mathcal{H}_2 respectively.

Definition 2.3. *A state is said to be entangled, if it is not separable by the above definition. Entangled states can be pure or mixed. For an entangled pure state $\rho = |\psi\rangle\langle\psi|$, $|\psi\rangle$ is called an entangled (unit) vector and any non-zero multiple of $|\psi\rangle$ is called an entangled vector.*

If the state is pure and separable, then it can be written in the form $|\psi\rangle = |\psi_1\rangle \otimes |\psi_2\rangle$, and hence $\rho = |\psi_1\rangle\langle\psi_1| \otimes |\psi_2\rangle\langle\psi_2|$. If we take partial trace with respect to any of the subsystems, say \mathcal{H}_2 , then we get a pure state $\text{Tr}_{\mathcal{H}_2}\rho = |\psi_1\rangle\langle\psi_1|$ as the reduced density matrix. On the other hand, for an entangled pure state we always get a mixed state after a partial trace. Hence, a pure state is separable if and only if the reduced density matrices are of rank one. This method does not work for mixed states.

We also consider multi-partite quantum systems, where the state space given by $\mathcal{H} = \mathcal{H}_1 \otimes \cdots \otimes \mathcal{H}_k$; or in short, $\bigotimes_{j=1}^k \mathcal{H}_j$. A product vector in this multipartite system space is written as $|x_1\rangle \otimes \cdots \otimes |x_k\rangle$, with $|x_j\rangle \in \mathcal{H}_j$ or as $|x_1, \dots, x_k\rangle$ or in short as $\bigotimes_{j=1}^k |x_j\rangle$. The state of the system \mathcal{H} can be entangled or separable. **An important open problem in the field is to determine whether an arbitrary state ρ of an arbitrary quantum system \mathcal{H} , is entangled or separable.** For further details regarding entanglement we refer the survey article written by Horodecki et. al. [HHHH09].

For general states, a very important one way condition to check entanglement is by using *partial transpose* (PT). If a quantum state becomes non-positive after PT then it is called NPT and if it remains positive after partial transpose it is called PPT. NPT states are definitely entangled and separable states are definitely PPT while PPT states can be entangled or separable. PPT entangled states are also called bound entangled states and their characterization into entangled and separable is a major open issue in the field. Checking PPT condition is also known as the ‘Peres test’ because of the significant work by Peres [Per96]. As remarked by DiVincenzo et. al. [DMS⁺03], in the case of multipartite systems, the PPT condition can not be used directly. We can check the PPT property under every possible bipartite partitioning of the state. We discuss this process in some detail because of its use in our work.

Definition 2.4. *Let, for $1 \leq j \leq k$, $\{|p_j\rangle : p_j = 0, 1, \dots, \dim(\mathcal{H}_j) - 1\}$ be an orthonormal basis in \mathcal{H}_j . Let $\rho \in \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{H}_1 \otimes \dots \otimes \mathcal{H}_k)$ be an operator. Then ρ can be expressed in the form*

$$(2) \quad \rho = \sum_{p_1, q_1=0}^{\dim \mathcal{H}_1 - 1} \cdots \sum_{p_k, q_k=0}^{\dim \mathcal{H}_k - 1} \rho_{p_1, \dots, p_k; q_1, \dots, q_k} |p_1, \dots, p_k\rangle \langle q_1, \dots, q_k|.$$

The partial transpose of ρ , with respect to the j th system, is given by

$$(3) \quad \rho^{PT_j} = \sum_{p_1, q_1=0}^{\dim \mathcal{H}_1 - 1} \cdots \sum_{p_k, q_k=0}^{\dim \mathcal{H}_k - 1} \rho_{p_1, \dots, p_k; q_1, \dots, q_k} |p_1, \dots, p_{j-1}, q_j, p_{j+1}, \dots, p_k\rangle \langle q_1, \dots, q_{j-1}, p_j, q_{j+1}, \dots, q_k|.$$

If for a state ρ , ρ^{PT_j} is positive, then ρ is said to be positive under partial transpose at the j th level, in short, PPT_j . If a state ρ is not PPT_j , then it is said to be not positive under partial transpose at the j th level, in short, NPT_j .

Remark 2.1.

- (i) It is a fact that the property PPT_j is independent of the choice of orthonormal basis in \mathcal{H}_j .
- (ii) In case of any bipartite system ρ , it is said to be PPT if it is PPT_1 or PPT_2 (in this case PPT_1 implies PPT_2 and vice versa).
- (iii) Woronowicz [Wor76] showed that, a state in $\mathbb{C}^2 \otimes \mathbb{C}^2$, $\mathbb{C}^2 \otimes \mathbb{C}^3$ or $\mathbb{C}^3 \otimes \mathbb{C}^2$ is separable if and only if it is PPT. For higher dimensions, PPT is necessary, but not sufficient for separability and there are examples of entangled states which are PPT. First examples of such states were constructed by Choi [Cho80] for $3 \otimes 3$, Woronowicz [Wor76] for $2 \otimes 4$ and later by Størmer [Stø82] for $3 \otimes 3$.

Definition 2.5. *For any proper subset E of $\{1, 2, \dots, k\}$ and its complement E' in $\{1, \dots, k\}$ let $\mathcal{H}(E) = \bigotimes_{j \in E} \mathcal{H}_j$ and $\mathcal{H}(E') = \bigotimes_{j \in E'} \mathcal{H}_j$. Then $\mathcal{H} = \mathcal{H}(E) \otimes \mathcal{H}(E')$. Any such decomposition is called a bipartite cut. A state $\rho \in \mathcal{H}$ is said to be positive under partial transpose, in short, PPT if it is PPT under any bipartite cut.*

Remark 2.2. *Obviously if ρ is PPT then ρ is PPT_j for each j ; all we need to do is to take $E = \{j\}$. In other words, if ρ is NPT_j for some j , then it is NPT.*

2.2. Unextendable product bases. One well studied way to construct PPT entangled states was given by Bennett et. al. [BDM⁺99] by using unextendable product basis.

Definition 2.6. *An incomplete set of product vectors \mathcal{B} in the Hilbert space $\mathcal{H} = \bigotimes_{j=1}^k \mathcal{H}_j$ is called unextendable if the space $\langle \mathcal{B} \rangle^\perp$ does not contain any product vector. The vectors in the set \mathcal{B} are usually taken as orthonormal and are called unextendable product bases, abbreviated as UPB.*

To avoid trivialities, we assume $\dim \mathcal{H}_j = d_j \geq 2$. Let $D = d_1 d_2 \cdots d_k$. Bennett et. al. [BDM⁺99] gave three examples of UPB for bipartite and tripartite systems namely, PYRAMID, TILES and SHIFT. We state the key theorem of Bennett et. al. [BDM⁺99] which allows one to construct PPT entangled states from UPB and which is relevant to this paper.

Theorem A. [BDM⁺99] *If in the Hilbert space $\mathcal{H} = \bigotimes_{j=1}^k \mathcal{H}_j$ of dimension $D = d_1 \cdots d_k$, as above, there is a mutually orthonormal set of unextendable product basis : $\{|\psi_s\rangle : s = 1, \dots, d\}$, then the state*

$$(4) \quad \rho = \frac{1}{D-d} \left(I_D - \sum_{s=1}^d |\psi_s\rangle \langle \psi_s| \right),$$

where I_D is the identity operator on \mathcal{H} , is an entangled state which is PPT.

The proof depends on the orthogonality of the basis vectors $|\psi_s\rangle$.

The above theory was further extended by DiVincenzo et. al. [DMS⁺03] to include generalizations of the earlier examples to multipartite systems and a complete characterization of UPB in $\mathbb{C}^3 \otimes \mathbb{C}^3$. There is a large volume of literature in this area. Recently, Johnston has given explicit computation of four qubit UPB [Joh14].

2.3. Entangled subspaces. Let $\mathcal{H} = \mathcal{H}_1 \otimes \cdots \otimes \mathcal{H}_k$, where for $1 \leq j \leq k$, $\mathcal{H}_j = \mathbb{C}^{d_j}$ for some $d_j < \infty$ as above. Wallach [Wal02] considered the question of the maximal possible dimension of a subspace \mathcal{S} of \mathcal{H} where each nonzero vector is an entangled state. He called such subspaces entangled subspaces, as they do not contain any nonzero product vector. He showed that

Theorem B. [Wal02] *The dimension of a subspace, where each vector is entangled, is $\leq d_1 \cdots d_k - (d_1 + \cdots + d_k) + k - 1$. Furthermore, this upper bound is attained.*

2.4. Parthasarathy's construction. Parthasarathy [Par04] gave an explicit construction of such entangled subspaces where the maximal dimension is attained. We note that Parthasarathy calls such subspaces completely entangled subspaces. Let $\mathcal{H} = \mathcal{H}_1 \otimes \cdots \otimes \mathcal{H}_k$ be as above. Let $\lambda \in \mathcal{C}$. For $1 \leq j \leq k$, let

$$(5) \quad v_{\lambda,j} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ \lambda \\ \lambda^2 \\ \vdots \\ \lambda^{d_j-1} \end{pmatrix} \equiv \sum_{x=0}^{d_j-1} \lambda^x |x\rangle;$$

where $\{|x\rangle : x = 0, 1, \dots, d_j - 1\}$ is the standard basis of $\mathcal{H}_j = \mathbb{C}^{d_j}$. Set

$$(6) \quad |v_\lambda\rangle \equiv v_{\lambda,1} \otimes \cdots \otimes v_{\lambda,k} = \bigotimes_{j=1}^k v_{\lambda,j}.$$

Set $N = \sum_{j=1}^k (d_j - 1) = \sum_{j=1}^k d_j - k$. Choose any $(N + 1)$ distinct complex numbers $\lambda_0, \lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_N$ and denote the linear span of $\{v_{\lambda_n} : 0 \leq n \leq N\}$ by \mathcal{F} , i.e. $\mathcal{F} = \langle v_{\lambda_n} : 0 \leq n \leq N \rangle$. Then $\{v_{\lambda_n} : 0 \leq n \leq N\}$ is a basis of \mathcal{F} . Consider the subspace $\mathcal{S} = \mathcal{F}^\perp$.

It has been shown in [Par04] that the space \mathcal{S} does not contain any product vector and is of dimension $M = d_1 \cdots d_k - (d_1 + \cdots + d_k) + k - 1$.

Simple computations show that the basis vectors of \mathcal{F} need not all be orthogonal, but certain subspaces of \mathcal{F} can contain orthonormal basis of product vectors.

Another strong point in this paper is an explicit construction of an orthonormal basis for \mathcal{S} in the case $k = 2$, $d_1 = d_2$. We shall come back to this later in §2.7 below.

2.5. Bhat's construction [Bha06]. For notational convenience, he starts with an infinite dimensional space with an orthonormal basis $\{e_0, e_1, \dots\}$ and identifies $\mathcal{H}_r = \langle \{e_0, \dots, e_{d_r-1}\} \rangle$, $1 \leq r \leq k$, and sets $\mathcal{H} = \mathcal{H}_1 \otimes \cdots \otimes \mathcal{H}_k$.

Let $N = \sum_{r=1}^k (d_r - 1)$. For $0 \leq n \leq N$, let $\mathcal{I}_n = \{\mathbf{i} = (i_r)_{r=1}^k, 0 \leq i_r \leq d_r - 1 \text{ for } 1 \leq r \leq k, \sum_{r=1}^k i_r = n\}$. Let $\mathcal{I} = \bigcup_{n=0}^N \mathcal{I}_n$. For $\mathbf{i} \in \mathcal{I}$, let $e_{\mathbf{i}} = \bigotimes_{r=1}^k e_{i_r}$. For $0 \leq n \leq N$, let $\mathcal{H}^{(n)} = \langle \{e_{\mathbf{i}} : \mathbf{i} \in \mathcal{I}_n\} \rangle$. Then $\{e_{\mathbf{i}} : \mathbf{i} \in \mathcal{I}\}$ is an orthonormal basis for $\mathcal{H}^{(n)}$. Further, $\mathcal{H} = \bigoplus_{n=0}^N \mathcal{H}^{(n)}$ and $\{e_{\mathbf{i}} : \mathbf{i} \in \mathcal{I}\}$ is an orthonormal basis for \mathcal{H} . Let $0 \leq n \leq N$. Let $u_n = \sum_{\mathbf{i} \in \mathcal{I}_n} e_{\mathbf{i}}$. Let $\mathcal{T}^{(n)} = \mathbb{C}u_n$, then $\mathcal{H}^{(n)} = \mathcal{S}^{(n)} \oplus \mathcal{T}^{(n)}$, where

$$\mathcal{S}^{(n)} = \text{span}\{e_{\mathbf{i}} - e_{\mathbf{j}} : \mathbf{i}, \mathbf{j} \in \mathcal{I}_n\}.$$

Clearly $\mathcal{S}^{(n)}$ is also equal to the set of all the sums $\sum_{\mathbf{i} \in \mathcal{I}_n} \alpha_{\mathbf{i}} e_{\mathbf{i}}$ such that $\sum_{\mathbf{i} \in \mathcal{I}_n} \alpha_{\mathbf{i}} = 0$. Further, $\mathcal{S}^{(0)} = \{0\} = \mathcal{S}^{(N)}$. Let $\mathcal{T} = \bigoplus_{n=0}^N \mathcal{T}^{(n)}$ and $\mathcal{S}_B = \bigoplus_{n=0}^N \mathcal{S}^{(n)}$, which is the same as $\bigoplus_{n=1}^{N-1} \mathcal{S}^{(n)}$. Then $\mathcal{S}_B^\perp = \mathcal{T}$ and $\mathcal{H} = \mathcal{S}_B \oplus \mathcal{T}$.

Theorem C. [Bha06] \mathcal{S}_B is a completely entangled subspace of maximal dimension.

Remark 2.3.

(i) We note that for $\lambda \in \mathbb{C}$,

$$\begin{aligned} |z^\lambda\rangle &\equiv \left(\sum_{j_1=0}^{d_1-1} \lambda^{j_1} e_{j_1} \right) \otimes \cdots \otimes \left(\sum_{j_k=0}^{d_k-1} \lambda^{j_k} e_{j_k} \right) \\ (7) \quad &= \sum_{n=0}^N \lambda^n \left(\sum_{\mathbf{i} \in \mathcal{I}_n} e_{\mathbf{i}} \right) \\ &= \sum_{n=0}^N \lambda^n u_n. \end{aligned}$$

(ii) We now consider \mathcal{H}_r 's as subspaces of \mathbb{C}^δ , with $\delta = \max_{j=1}^k d_j$ and $e_s \equiv |s\rangle$ for $1 \leq s \leq \delta$. So we can identify $|v_\lambda\rangle$ and $|z^\lambda\rangle$. Let λ_n , $0 \leq n \leq N$ be distinct complex numbers as in §2.4. Then $\{|v_{\lambda_n}\rangle : 0 \leq n \leq N\}$ is a linearly independent subset of \mathcal{T} . So $\mathcal{F} = \mathcal{T}$. This also shows that \mathcal{F} is independent of the choice of complex numbers. Thus

$$\mathcal{S} = \mathcal{F}^\perp = \mathcal{T}^\perp = \mathcal{S}_B.$$

Theorem D. [Bha06] The set of product vectors in $\mathcal{S}^\perp = \mathcal{T}$ is

$$\{c |z^\lambda\rangle : c \in \mathbb{C}, \lambda \in \mathbb{C} \cup \{\infty\}\};$$

where $|z^\infty\rangle = \bigotimes_{r=1}^k e_{d_r-1}$.

2.6. Johnston's construction [Joh13]. Johnston concentrated on constructing a completely entangled subspace \mathcal{S}_J of $\mathbb{C}^{d_1} \otimes \mathbb{C}^{d_2}$ of dimension $(d_1 - 1)(d_2 - 1)$ for bipartite systems such that every density matrix with range contained in it is NPT. In the notation of Subsections 2.4 and 2.5,

$$(8) \quad \mathcal{S}_J = \langle \{w_{x,y} = |x\rangle \otimes |y+1\rangle - |x+1\rangle \otimes |y\rangle : 0 \leq x \leq d_1 - 2, 0 \leq y \leq d_2 - 2\} \rangle.$$

We end this subsection with our theorem which establishes an interesting and useful link between different constructions of completely entangled subspaces.

Theorem 2.1. *For the bipartite case, the completely entangled spaces \mathcal{S} , \mathcal{S}_B and \mathcal{S}_J can be identified with each other.*

Proof. In view of Remark 2.3 and the discussion in this section, we only need to note that for $0 \leq x \leq d_1 - 2$ and $0 \leq y \leq d_2 - 2$, $w_{x,y} \in \mathcal{S}^{(x+y+1)}$. Thus $\mathcal{S}_J \subseteq \mathcal{S}_B$. But $\dim \mathcal{S}_B = (d_1 - 1)(d_2 - 1) = \dim \mathcal{S}_J$. Hence $\mathcal{S}_B = \mathcal{S}_J$. \square

2.7. Parthasarathy's orthonormal basis for \mathcal{S} for bipartite case of equal dimensions [Par04]. We need the following explicit construction of the orthonormal basis \mathcal{B} of \mathcal{S} given in [Par04] for the bipartite case $\mathcal{H} = \mathcal{H}_1 \otimes \mathcal{H}_2$, with $d_1 = d_2 = \nu$, say.

(a) Antisymmetric vectors:

$$|a_{x,y}\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(|xy\rangle - |yx\rangle), \quad 0 \leq x < y \leq \nu - 1.$$

(b) For $2 \leq n \leq \nu - 1$ and n even, vectors of the forms :

$$|b_0^n\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{n(n+1)}} \left(\sum_{m=0}^{\frac{n}{2}-1} (|m, n-m\rangle + |n-m, m\rangle) - n \left| \frac{n}{2}, \frac{n}{2} \right\rangle \right), \quad \text{and}$$

$$|b_p^n\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}} \sum_{m=0}^{\frac{n}{2}-1} \exp\left(\frac{4\pi i m p}{n}\right) (|m, n-m\rangle + |n-m, m\rangle), \quad 1 \leq p \leq \frac{n}{2} - 1.$$

(c) For $2 \leq n \leq \nu - 1$ and n odd, vectors of the form:

$$|b_p^n\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{n+1}} \sum_{m=0}^{\frac{n-1}{2}} \exp\left(\frac{4\pi i m p}{n+1}\right) (|m, n-m\rangle + |n-m, m\rangle), \quad 1 \leq p \leq \frac{n-1}{2}.$$

(d) For $\nu \leq n \leq 2\nu - 4$ and n even, vectors of the form:

$$|b_0^n\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{(2\nu-2-n)(2\nu-1-n)}} \left(\sum_{m=0}^{\frac{2\nu-2-n}{2}-1} (|n-\nu+m+1, \nu-m-1\rangle + |\nu-m-1, n-\nu+m+1\rangle) - (2\nu-2-n) \left| \frac{n}{2}, \frac{n}{2} \right\rangle \right), \quad \text{and}$$

$$|b_p^n\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\nu-2-n}} \sum_{m=0}^{\frac{2\nu-2-n}{2}-1} \exp\left(\frac{4\pi i m p}{2\nu-2-n}\right) (|n-\nu+m+1, \nu-m-1\rangle + |\nu-m-1, n-\nu+m+1\rangle), \quad 1 \leq p \leq \frac{2\nu-2-n}{2} - 1.$$

(e) For $\nu \leq n \leq 2\nu - 4$ and n odd, vectors of the form:

$$|b_p^n\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\nu - 1 - n}} \sum_{m=0}^{\frac{2\nu-1-n}{2}-1} \exp\left(\frac{4\pi i m p}{2\nu - 1 - n}\right) (|n - \nu + m + 1, \nu - m - 1\rangle \\ + |\nu - m - 1, n - \nu + m + 1\rangle), \quad 1 \leq p \leq \frac{2\nu - 1 - n}{2} - 1.$$

Remark 2.4.

- (i) An interesting aspect of \mathcal{B} is that for $1 \leq n \leq 2\nu - 3$, $\mathcal{B}_n = \mathcal{B} \cap \mathcal{S}^{(n)}$ is an orthonormal basis for $\mathcal{S}^{(n)}$.
- (ii) $\mathcal{B}_1 = \{|a_{0,1}\rangle\}$ and $\mathcal{B}_{2\nu-3} = \{|a_{\nu-2,\nu-1}\rangle\}$.
- (iii) For $1 \leq g \leq \nu - 2$, $|f_g\rangle = |g\rangle \otimes |g\rangle$ occurs as a summand of exactly one vector in \mathcal{B} . Further, $|f_{\nu-1}\rangle = |\nu - 1\rangle \otimes |\nu - 1\rangle$ does not occur as a summand of vectors in \mathcal{B} .
- (iv) Let $\mathbb{F} : \mathcal{H}_1 \otimes \mathcal{H}_2 \rightarrow \mathcal{H}_2 \otimes \mathcal{H}_1$ be the linear operator, called FLIP or SWAP, satisfying $\mathbb{F}(|\xi\rangle \otimes |\eta\rangle) = |\eta\rangle \otimes |\xi\rangle$ for $|\xi\rangle \in \mathcal{H}_1$ and $|\eta\rangle \in \mathcal{H}_2$. Then $\mathbb{F}(|a_{x,y}\rangle) = -|a_{x,y}\rangle$, whereas $\mathbb{F}(|b_p^n\rangle) = |b_p^n\rangle$; $|a_{x,y}\rangle$ and $|b_p^n\rangle$ are as above.

2.8. Bhat's orthonormal basis for \mathcal{S} . Bhat [Bha06] indicated how to construct an orthonormal basis for \mathcal{S} . He has also given expressions for dimensions of $\mathcal{H}^{(n)}$ viz., $|\mathcal{I}_n|$ for $1 \leq n \leq N$. In fact, \mathcal{I}_n = the coefficient of x^n in the polynomial $p(x) = \prod_{r=1}^k (1 + x + \cdots + x^{d_r-1})$ = number of partitions of n into (i_1, \dots, i_k) with $0 \leq i_r \leq d_r - 1$ for $1 \leq r \leq k$. For instance, for $k = 2$, $d_1 \leq d_2$,

$$|\mathcal{I}_n| = \begin{cases} n + 1 & \text{for } 0 \leq n \leq d_1 - 1 \\ d_1 & \text{for } d_1 - 1 < n \leq d_2 - 1 \\ d_1 + d_2 - (n + 1) & \text{for } d_2 - 1 < n \leq d_1 + d_2 - 2. \end{cases}$$

If $d_i = 2$ for all i , then $|\mathcal{I}_n| = \binom{k}{n}$, $0 \leq n \leq k$.

2.9. Two useful techniques. We now display techniques to be used in constructing an orthonormal basis for the general bipartite and multipartite case suitable for our purpose.

Theorem 2.2. Let Y be a d -dimensional Hilbert space with $2 \leq d < \infty$ and $\{|y_s\rangle : 0 \leq s \leq d - 1\}$ an orthonormal basis for Y . Let Z be the subspace $\{\sum_{s=0}^{d-1} \alpha_s |y_s\rangle : \sum_{s=0}^{d-1} \alpha_s = 0\}$.

- (i) If $d = 2$ then $Z = \mathbb{C}(|y_0\rangle - |y_1\rangle)$.
- (ii) Let $d \geq 3$. Then there exists an orthonormal basis $\{|z_s\rangle : 0 \leq s \leq d - 2\}$ for Z such that $|y_0\rangle$ occurs as a summand in $|z_0\rangle$ and $|z_1\rangle$; further, for $d > 3$, $|y_0\rangle$ does not occur as a summand in $|z_s\rangle$ for $2 \leq s \leq d - 2$.
- (iii) Let $d \geq 3$. Let $1 \leq r \leq d - 2$. Let

$$Z_r^1 = \left\{ \sum_{s=0}^r \alpha_s |y_s\rangle : \sum_{s=0}^r \alpha_s = 0 \right\} = Z \cap \langle \{|y_s\rangle : 0 \leq s \leq r\} \rangle,$$

and

$$Z_r^2 = \left\{ \sum_{s=r+1}^{d-1} \alpha_s |y_s\rangle : \sum_{s=r+1}^{d-1} \alpha_s = 0 \right\}.$$

Let $\mathcal{C}_r^1 = \{|z_s\rangle : 0 \leq s \leq r - 1\}$ be an orthonormal basis for Z_r^1 such that $|y_0\rangle$ occurs as a summand in $|z_0\rangle$ and in no other $|z_s\rangle$ for $s \leq r - 1$. Then there exists an orthonormal

basis $\{|z_s\rangle : 0 \leq s \leq d-2\}$ for Z such that $|y_0\rangle$ occurs as a summand in $|z_0\rangle$ and $|z_r\rangle$ and in no other $|z_s\rangle$ for $0 \leq s \leq d-2$.

Proof. (i) is immediate.

(ii) Let $|z_0\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(|y_0\rangle - |y_1\rangle)$, $|\eta\rangle = (|y_0\rangle + |y_1\rangle)$ and $|v\rangle = \sum_{s=2}^{d-1} |y_s\rangle$. Set

$$|z_1\rangle = \frac{(d-2)|\eta\rangle - 2|v\rangle}{\sqrt{2d(d-2)}}.$$

Then $|y_0\rangle$ occurs as a summand in $|z_0\rangle$ and $|z_1\rangle$.

We now consider the case $d > 3$ and follow the notation in (iii). We choose any orthonormal basis for Z_1^2 . For instance, we may choose the Fourier basis

$$|z_p\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{d-2}} \sum_{s=2}^{d-1} \exp\left[\frac{2\pi i(s-2)(p-1)}{d-2}\right] |y_s\rangle, \quad 2 \leq p \leq d-2.$$

(iii) Let $|\eta\rangle = \sum_{s=0}^r |y_s\rangle$, $|v\rangle = \sum_{s=r+1}^{d-1} |y_s\rangle$. Consider any $|\xi\rangle = \sum_{s=0}^{d-1} \alpha_s |y_s\rangle$. For $0 \leq s' \neq s'' \leq r$, $|y_{s'}\rangle - |y_{s''}\rangle \in Z_r^1$. So $|\xi\rangle \perp Z_r^1$ only if $\alpha_{s'} = \alpha_{s''}$ for $s' \neq s''$ with $0 \leq s' \neq s'' \leq r$. Thus any such vector has the form

$$(9) \quad |\xi\rangle = \alpha |\eta\rangle + \sum_{s=r+1}^{d-1} \alpha_s |y_s\rangle \quad \text{with} \quad (r+1)\alpha + \sum_{s=r+1}^{d-1} \alpha_s = 0.$$

Also any $|\xi\rangle$ of the form as in (9) is orthogonal to Z_r^1 . Set

$$|z_r\rangle = \frac{(d-1-r)|\eta\rangle - (r+1)|v\rangle}{\sqrt{d(r+1)(d-r-1)}}.$$

Then $|y_0\rangle$ occurs as a summand in $|z_r\rangle$.

We now consider the case $r \leq d-3$, which forces $d \geq 4$ for sure. Now $|\xi\rangle$ as in (9), satisfies $\langle \xi | z_r \rangle = 0$ if and only if $\alpha = 0$ if and only if $\sum_{s=r+1}^{d-1} \alpha_s = 0$ if and only if $|\xi\rangle$ has the form

$$|\xi\rangle = \sum_{s=r+1}^{d-1} \alpha_s |y_s\rangle, \quad \sum_{s=r+1}^{d-1} \alpha_s = 0 \quad \text{if and only if} \quad |\xi\rangle \in Z_r^2.$$

As in the proof of (ii), we choose any orthonormal basis for Z_r^2 . for instance, we may choose the Fourier basis,

$$|z_p\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{d-1-r}} \sum_{s=r+1}^{d-1} \exp\left[\frac{2\pi i(s-r-1)(p-r)}{d-1-r}\right] |y_s\rangle, \quad r+1 \leq p \leq d-2.$$

Then $|y_0\rangle$ does not occur as a summand in $|z_p\rangle$, $r+1 \leq p \leq d-2$.

□

2.10. Orthonormal basis for \mathcal{S} (general case). We shall now construct a suitable orthonormal basis for \mathcal{S} in our multipartite system $\mathcal{H} = \bigotimes_{j=1}^k \mathcal{H}_j$. Let $1 \leq j \neq j' \leq k$. Set $\nu = \min\{d_j, d_{j'}\}$ and $\nu' = \max\{d_j, d_{j'}\}$. We concentrate on the case $(k-2) + (\nu' - \nu) > 0$, as the remaining case $k=2$, $\nu = \nu'$ comes under §2.7 above. It is enough to construct suitable orthonormal basis for $\mathcal{S}^{(n)}$ for $1 \leq n \leq N-1$, because we can just put them together to get an orthonormal basis for \mathcal{S} . Let $1 \leq n \leq N-1$. We take $X = \mathcal{H}^{(n)}$, $Z = \mathcal{S}^{(n)}$ in the above

theorem. We note that $\mathcal{H}^{(n)}$ has dimension $d = |\mathcal{I}_n|$. For $0 \leq x, x' \leq \nu - 1$, we take $\mathbf{i}^{(x, x')} \in \mathcal{I}$ given by

$$i_t^{(x, x')} = \begin{cases} 0 & t \neq j \text{ or } j' \\ x & t = j \\ x' & t = j'. \end{cases}$$

At times we shall replace $\mathbf{i}^{(x, x')}$ by $\widetilde{(x, x')}$. For $|\xi\rangle \in \mathbb{C}^\nu \otimes \mathbb{C}^\nu$, we take $|\tilde{\xi}\rangle$ to be the vector in \mathcal{H} which is obtained by considering $|\xi\rangle$ as a member of $\mathcal{H}_j \otimes \mathcal{H}_{j'}$ and then filling in the remaining places by $|0\rangle$ (if any). Then $\tilde{\mathcal{B}}_n = \{|\tilde{\xi}\rangle : |\xi\rangle \in \mathcal{B}_n\}$ may be thought of as an orthonormal basis for its linear span which is a part of $\mathcal{S}^{(n)}$.

Let

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{I}_n^1 &= \begin{cases} \{\mathbf{i} \in \mathcal{I}_n, 0 \leq i_j, i_{j'} \leq \nu - 1, \text{ and } i_t = 0 \text{ for } t \neq j, j'\}, & 1 \leq n \leq 2\nu - 3 \\ \emptyset & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases} \\ \mathcal{I}_n^2 &= \mathcal{I}_n \setminus \mathcal{I}_n^1. \end{aligned}$$

We note that $|\mathcal{I}_n^1|$ is either 0 or ≥ 2 . For $n = 2g$ with $1 \leq g \leq \nu - 1$, we take $\mathbf{i}^0 = \widetilde{(g, g)}$. For $n = 2g - 1$, $1 \leq g \leq \nu - 1$ we take $\mathbf{i}^0 = (g - 1, g)$. Next, for $1 \leq n \leq 2\nu - 3$, we arrange members of $\mathcal{I}_n^1 \setminus \{\mathbf{i}^0\}$ in any sequence, say $\mathbf{i}^1, \dots, \mathbf{i}^{|\mathcal{I}_n^1|-1}$ insisting, for $n = 2g - 1$, $\mathbf{i}^1 = (g, g - 1)$. Then, we arrange members of \mathcal{I}_n^2 , if any, in any manner we like. This will complete the enumeration of \mathcal{I}_n as $0, 1, \dots, |\mathcal{I}_n| - 1$. For $n = 2\nu - 2$, we enumerate $\mathcal{I}_n \setminus \{\mathbf{i}^0\}$ as $\mathbf{i}^1, \dots, \mathbf{i}^{|\mathcal{I}_n|-1}$. For $2\nu - 1 \leq n \leq N - 1$, we enumerate \mathcal{I}_n in any manner we like as $\mathbf{i}^0, \mathbf{i}^1, \dots, \mathbf{i}^{|\mathcal{I}_n|-1}$. Finally, we set $|y_s\rangle = |\mathbf{i}^s\rangle$, $0 \leq s \leq d - 1 = |\mathcal{I}_n| - 1$ and, in case $1 \leq n \leq 2\nu - 3$, $r = |\mathcal{I}_n^1| - 1$.

To distinguish constructions for different n 's, we may use extra fixture n ; for instance ${}^n\mathbf{i}^0, {}^n\mathbf{i}^1, \dots, |\eta_n\rangle, |v_n\rangle$ etc. in place of $\mathbf{i}^0, \mathbf{i}^1, \dots, |\eta\rangle, |v\rangle$.

This discussion combined with Theorem 2.2 above immediately gives us the following theorem.

Theorem 2.3. *Let $\mathcal{H} = \bigotimes_{t=1}^k \mathcal{H}_t$. Let $1 \leq j \neq j' \leq k$, $\nu = \min\{d_j, d_{j'}\} \leq \nu' = \max\{d_j, d_{j'}\}$ and $(k - 2) + (\nu' - \nu) > 0$. There exists an orthonormal basis \mathcal{C} for \mathcal{S} such that*

- (i) $|0\rangle \otimes |0\rangle$ does not occur as a summand in any vector in \mathcal{C} .
- (ii) For $1 \leq g \leq \nu - 2$, $\widetilde{|g\rangle \otimes |g\rangle}$ occurs as a summand in two members of \mathcal{C} .
- (iii) $(|\nu - 1\rangle \otimes |\nu - 1\rangle)$ occurs as a summand in two members of \mathcal{C} except for the bipartite case with $2 = \nu < \nu'$ or $\nu' = \nu + 1$, when it occurs only once.
- (iv) For $2 \leq g \leq \nu - 1$, $(|g - 1\rangle \otimes |g\rangle)$ and $(|g\rangle \otimes |g - 1\rangle)$ occur as a summand in (the same) two members of \mathcal{C} .
- (v) In particular, $\widetilde{(|0\rangle \otimes |1\rangle)}$, $\widetilde{(|1\rangle \otimes |0\rangle)}$ and $\widetilde{(|1\rangle \otimes |1\rangle)}$, occur as summands as follows.
 - (a) Vectors $|0\rangle \otimes |1\rangle$ and $|1\rangle \otimes |0\rangle$ occur as a summand in $\widetilde{|a_{0,1}\rangle} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(|0\rangle \otimes |1\rangle - |1\rangle \otimes |0\rangle)$, and in case $k \geq 3$, also in $\widetilde{|c_0^1\rangle} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2|\mathcal{I}_1|(|\mathcal{I}_1|-2)}} \left((|\mathcal{I}_1| - 2)(|0\rangle \otimes |1\rangle + |1\rangle \otimes |0\rangle) - 2|v_1\rangle \right) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2k(k-2)}} \left((k - 2)(|0\rangle \otimes |1\rangle + |1\rangle \otimes |0\rangle) - 2|v_1\rangle \right)$.
 - (b) For $\nu = 2$, $\widetilde{(|1\rangle \otimes |1\rangle)}$ occurs as a summand as follows.

- For $k = 2$, $\nu' \geq 3$, in $\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \left(\widetilde{|1\rangle \otimes |1\rangle} - \widetilde{|0\rangle \otimes |2\rangle} \right)$ or in $\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \left(\widetilde{|1\rangle \otimes |1\rangle} - \widetilde{|2\rangle \otimes |0\rangle} \right)$ according as $d_2 = \nu'$ or $d_1 = \nu'$. In fact, it is the same as $|a_{2\mathbf{i}^0, 2\mathbf{i}^1}\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(|^2\mathbf{i}^0\rangle - |^2\mathbf{i}^1\rangle)$.
 - For $k \geq 3$, in $|a_{2\mathbf{i}^0, 2\mathbf{i}^1}\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(|^2\mathbf{i}^0\rangle - |^2\mathbf{i}^1\rangle)$ and in $|c_0^2\rangle = \frac{(|\mathcal{I}_2|-2)(|^2\mathbf{i}^0\rangle + |^2\mathbf{i}^1\rangle) - 2|v_2\rangle}{\sqrt{2(|\mathcal{I}_2|-2)|\mathcal{I}_2|}}$.
- (c) For $\nu \geq 3$, $\widetilde{|1\rangle \otimes |1\rangle}$ occurs as a summand in $|\tilde{b}_0^2\rangle$, and if, in addition, $k \geq 3$, also in $|c_0^2\rangle = \frac{|\mathcal{I}_2^2||\eta_2\rangle - |\mathcal{I}_2^1||v_2\rangle}{\sqrt{|\mathcal{I}_2^1||\mathcal{I}_2^2||\mathcal{I}_2|}}$.

3. ENTANGLEMENT PROPERTIES OF THE PROJECTION OPERATORS

We begin this section with some preparatory remarks, which will be used to arrive at our main results.

3.1. A useful involution on $\mathcal{I} \times \mathcal{I}$. Let $\mathcal{H} = \bigotimes_{t=1}^k \mathcal{H}_t$. Fix j , with $1 \leq j \leq k$.

For $(\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{q}) \in \mathcal{I} \times \mathcal{I}$, let $\sigma_j(\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{q}) = (\mathbf{p}', \mathbf{q}')$, where

$$p'_t = \begin{cases} p_t & \text{for } t \neq j \\ q_j & \text{for } t = j \end{cases} \quad \text{and} \quad q'_t = \begin{cases} q_t & \text{for } t \neq j \\ p_j & \text{for } t = j \end{cases}$$

Then

$$(10) \quad |\mathbf{p}\rangle\langle\mathbf{q}|^{PT_j} = |\mathbf{p}'\rangle\langle\mathbf{q}'|.$$

We note that $\sigma_j(\mathbf{q}, \mathbf{p}) = (\mathbf{q}', \mathbf{p}')$. Further, the map $\sigma_j \circ \sigma_j$ is the identity map on $\mathcal{I} \times \mathcal{I}$, i.e., the map σ_j is an involution on $\mathcal{I} \times \mathcal{I}$.

3.2. Action of PT_j . Any operator $\rho \in \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{H}_1 \otimes \cdots \otimes \mathcal{H}_k)$ given as in (2) can be written in the compact form as,

$$(11) \quad \rho = \sum_{\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{q} \in \mathcal{I}} \rho_{(\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{q})} |\mathbf{p}\rangle\langle\mathbf{q}|,$$

then

$$\begin{aligned} \rho^{PT_j} &= \sum_{(\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{q}) \in \mathcal{I} \times \mathcal{I}} \rho_{(\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{q})} |\mathbf{p}'\rangle\langle\mathbf{q}'| \\ &= \sum_{(\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{q}) \in \mathcal{I} \times \mathcal{I}} \rho_{\sigma_j(\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{q})} |\mathbf{p}\rangle\langle\mathbf{q}|. \end{aligned}$$

Fix $j' \neq j$ with $1 \leq j' \leq k$. Let $\mathbf{p}^0 \in \mathcal{I}_0$, $\mathbf{q}^0 \in \mathcal{I}_2$; \mathbf{p}^1 and $\mathbf{q}^1 \in \mathcal{I}_1$, be defined as

$$\begin{aligned} p_t^0 &= 0 \quad \text{for all } t, & q_t^0 &= \begin{cases} 1 & \text{for } t = j, j' \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \\ p_t^1 &= \begin{cases} 1 & \text{for } t = j \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}, & q_t^1 &= \begin{cases} 1 & \text{for } t = j' \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \end{aligned}$$

Then $\sigma_j(\mathbf{p}^0, \mathbf{q}^0) = (\mathbf{p}^1, \mathbf{q}^1)$.

Let $\lambda \neq 0$ be a real number. Set $|\xi\rangle = \lambda|\mathbf{p}^0\rangle + |\mathbf{q}^0\rangle$. Then for any $\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{q} \in \mathcal{I}$,

$$\begin{aligned} \langle \xi | \mathbf{p} \rangle \langle \mathbf{q} | \xi \rangle &= (\lambda \delta_{\mathbf{p}^0 \mathbf{p}} + \delta_{\mathbf{q}^0 \mathbf{p}})(\lambda \delta_{\mathbf{p}^0 \mathbf{q}} + \delta_{\mathbf{q}^0 \mathbf{q}}) \\ &= \begin{cases} \lambda^2 & \text{for } (\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{q}) = (\mathbf{p}^0, \mathbf{p}^0), \\ \lambda & \text{for } (\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{q}) \in \{(\mathbf{p}^0, \mathbf{q}^0), (\mathbf{q}^0, \mathbf{p}^0)\} \\ 1 & \text{for } (\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{q}) = (\mathbf{q}^0, \mathbf{q}^0) \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \end{aligned}$$

With a state ρ as in (11),

$$\begin{aligned} \langle \xi | \rho^{PT_j} | \xi \rangle &= \sum_{(\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{q}) \in \mathcal{I} \times \mathcal{I}} \rho_{\sigma_j(\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{q})} \langle \xi | \mathbf{p} \rangle \langle \mathbf{q} | \xi \rangle \\ &= \lambda^2 \rho_{\sigma_j(\mathbf{p}^0, \mathbf{p}^0)} + \lambda \rho_{\sigma_j(\mathbf{p}^0, \mathbf{q}^0)} + \lambda \rho_{\sigma_j(\mathbf{q}^0, \mathbf{p}^0)} + \rho_{\sigma_j(\mathbf{q}^0, \mathbf{q}^0)} \\ &= \lambda^2 \rho_{(\mathbf{p}^0, \mathbf{p}^0)} + \lambda(\rho_{(\mathbf{p}^1, \mathbf{q}^1)} + \rho_{(\mathbf{q}^1, \mathbf{p}^1)}) + \rho_{(\mathbf{q}^0, \mathbf{q}^0)}. \end{aligned}$$

Theorem 3.1. Let $\mathcal{H} = \bigotimes_{r=1}^k \mathcal{H}_r$. Let $P_{\mathcal{S}}$ be the projection on the completely entangled subspace \mathcal{S} . For each j , $P_{\mathcal{S}}$ is not positive under partial transpose at level j .

In particular, $P_{\mathcal{S}}$ is NPT.

Proof. For a unit vector $|\zeta\rangle \in \mathcal{H}$, let P_{ζ} be the projection on $|\zeta\rangle$, i.e. $P_{\zeta} = |\zeta\rangle\langle\zeta|$. Let $1 \leq j \leq k$. Take any $j' \neq j$ with $1 \leq j' \leq k$. Let \mathcal{C} be an orthonormal basis for \mathcal{S} in two separate cases as follows.

- (a) For $k = 2$, $d_1 = d_2 = \nu$, take $\mathcal{C} = \mathcal{B}$ as in §2.7.
 - (b) For $k = 2$ but $d_1 \neq d_2$, or $k \geq 3$ we follow the procedure set up in §2.10 for Theorem 2.3.
- Then

$$P_{\mathcal{S}} = \sum_{|\zeta\rangle \in \mathcal{C}} P_{\zeta} = \sum_{\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{q} \in \mathcal{I}} \rho_{(\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{q})} |\mathbf{p}\rangle\langle\mathbf{q}|,$$

for some suitable $\rho_{(\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{q})}$'s. In the notation §3.2,

$$(12) \quad \langle \xi | \rho^{PT_j} | \xi \rangle = \lambda^2 \rho_{(\mathbf{p}^0, \mathbf{p}^0)} + \lambda(\rho_{(\mathbf{p}^1, \mathbf{q}^1)} + \rho_{(\mathbf{q}^1, \mathbf{p}^1)}) + \rho_{(\mathbf{q}^0, \mathbf{q}^0)}.$$

To complete the proof it is enough to show that $\langle \xi | \rho^{PT_j} | \xi \rangle < 0$.

We arrange the elements of \mathcal{C} in any manner $\{|\zeta_s\rangle : 0 \leq s \leq M-1\}$, but insisting on the following points.

(c)

$$|\zeta_0\rangle = \begin{cases} |a_{0,1}\rangle & \text{in case (a)} \\ \widetilde{|a_{0,1}\rangle} & \text{in case (b).} \end{cases}$$

(d)

$$\text{For } \nu = 2, \quad |\zeta_1\rangle = |a_{2\mathbf{i}^0, 2\mathbf{i}^1}\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(|^2\mathbf{i}^0\rangle - |^2\mathbf{i}^1\rangle),$$

$$\text{whereas for } \nu \geq 3, \quad |\zeta_1\rangle = \widetilde{|b_0^2\rangle}.$$

(e)

$$\text{For } k \geq 3, \quad |\zeta_2\rangle = |c_0^1\rangle.$$

(f)

$$\text{For } k \geq 3, \quad |\zeta_3\rangle = |c_0^2\rangle.$$

We write $P_s = P_{|\zeta_s\rangle}$, $0 \leq s \leq M-1$. Then $P_{\mathcal{S}} = \sum_{s=0}^{M-1} P_s$. So $\rho_{\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{q}} \neq 0$ only if $|\mathbf{p}\rangle$ and $|\mathbf{q}\rangle$ occur as a summand in some $|\zeta_s\rangle$.

In view of Theorem 2.3(iv) and (12) above we can just confine our attention to the vectors listed under (c), (d), (e) and (f) above.

We first note that none of them contributes towards $\rho_{(\mathbf{p}^0, \mathbf{p}^0)}$. Also $\rho_{(\mathbf{q}^0, \mathbf{q}^0)} \geq 0$. Next, we find that contribution to $\rho_{(\mathbf{p}^1, \mathbf{q}^1)}$ is the same as that to $\rho_{(\mathbf{q}^1, \mathbf{p}^1)}$. Thus, if the final contribution to $\rho_{(\mathbf{p}^1, \mathbf{q}^1)}$ is < 0 , then for a suitable $\lambda > 0$, $\langle \xi | \rho^{PT_j} | \xi \rangle < 0$. We now proceed to show that it is so.

P_0 contributes $-\frac{1}{2}$ to $\rho_{\mathbf{p}^1, \mathbf{q}^1}$. For $k \geq 3$, P_2 contributes $\frac{1}{2} \frac{k-2}{k}$ to $\rho_{\mathbf{p}^1, \mathbf{q}^1}$. So the total contribution to $\rho_{(\mathbf{p}^1, \mathbf{q}^1)}$ is $-\frac{1}{k}$. Hence the proof. \square

Corollary 3.1. \mathcal{F} does not contain any unextendable orthonormal product basis.

Proof. If \mathcal{F} contains any unextendable product basis then by Theorem (A) $P_{\mathcal{S}}$ will be PPT which is not true by Theorem 3.1. Hence the result follows. \square

We now show that large classes of states with range in the completely entangled subspace \mathcal{S} are NPT.

Theorem 3.2. Let $1 \leq j \leq k$. Take any $j' \neq j$ with $1 \leq j' \leq k$. Any positive operator $\sum_{s=0}^{M-1} p_s P_s$, where $p_s \geq 0$ for all s , $p_0 + (k-2)p_2 > 0$ and P_s 's are as in the proof of Theorem 3.1 above, is not positive under partial transpose at level j .

Proof. (i) All cases except possibly the case when $k \geq 3$ and $(k-2)p_2 = kp_0$.

We refer to the proof of Theorem 3.1 above. The only change needed is that the term, say w with λ is now given as follows.

- (a) For $k = 2$, $w = -p_0$ (in place of -1),
- (b) In case $k \geq 3$, $w = -p_0 + p_2 \frac{k-2}{k} \neq 0$.

So the final number in the right hand side of (12) can be made negative by suitable choice of λ which has to be suitably big and > 0 if $w < 0$, and has to be < 0 and suitably big in absolute value if $w > 0$.

(ii) Case $k \geq 3$ but $(k-2)p_2 = kp_0$. Since $p_0 + (k-2)p_2 > 0$, we have $p_2 > 0$. Because $k \geq 3$, there is j'' with $j \neq j'' \neq j'$ and $1 \leq j'' \leq k$. Let $\mathbf{r}^0 \in \mathcal{I}_2$ and $\mathbf{r}^1 \in \mathcal{I}_1$ be given by

$$r_t^0 = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } t = j, j'' \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

$$r_t^1 = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{for } t = j'' \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

We replace ξ by ξ' given by $\lambda |\mathbf{p}^0\rangle + |\mathbf{r}^0\rangle$ with λ real and make computations similar to those in item 3.2 and proof of part (i) above. We note that \mathbf{q}^1 has to be replaced by \mathbf{r}^1 , and then w by $w' = -\frac{2}{k}p_2$. And, therefore, for λ suitably bigger than 0, $\langle \xi' | \rho^{PT_j} | \xi' \rangle < 0$. This completes the proof. \square

Remark 3.1.

- (i) Because of the freedom of orthonormal bases at various stages of the construction of \mathcal{C} the import of Theorem 3.2 is much more. In fact, we may apply Theorem 2.2 to construct a basis \mathcal{D} for \mathcal{S} with more such freedom by clubbing in $\mathcal{S}^{(n)}$'s, $3 \leq n \leq N-1$ and insisting on including $|\zeta_0\rangle$, $|\zeta_1\rangle$, and in case $k \geq 3$, $|\zeta_2\rangle$ and $|\zeta_3\rangle$ as well.

- (ii) Let $1 \leq r \leq k$. Let γ_r be the involution on the set $\mathcal{D}_r = \{p : 0 \leq p \leq d_r - 1\}$ to itself that takes $p \mapsto d_r - 1 - p$ for $0 \leq p \leq d_r - 1$. This induces a unitary linear operator R_r on \mathcal{H}_r to itself which takes e_p to $e_{\gamma_r(p)}$ for $p \in \mathcal{D}_r$. We note that $R_r^2 = I_{\mathcal{H}_r}$ and therefore, R_r is self-adjoint. Next, let $\gamma = \prod_{r=1}^k \gamma_r$ on $\mathcal{I} = \prod_{r=1}^k \mathcal{D}_r$ to itself. Then γ is an involution on \mathcal{I} to itself. Further, for $0 \leq n \leq N$, γ takes \mathcal{I}_n to \mathcal{I}_{N-n} . Let R be the operator $\bigotimes_{r=1}^k R_r$ on \mathcal{H} to itself. Then, for $0 \leq n \leq N$, R takes $\mathcal{H}^{(n)}$ onto $\mathcal{H}^{(N-n)}$, u_n to u_{N-n} , $\mathcal{T}^{(n)}$ onto $\mathcal{T}^{(N-n)}$, $\mathcal{S}^{(n)}$ onto $\mathcal{S}^{(N-n)}$. Therefore, R takes \mathcal{S} onto itself. Further, R is unitary and self-adjoint. For $\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{q} \in \mathcal{I}$, $R(|\mathbf{p}\rangle\langle\mathbf{q}|)R = |\gamma(\mathbf{p})\rangle\langle\gamma(\mathbf{q})|$. Also, for $1 \leq j \neq j' \leq k$, we may now consider $R^\dagger \rho R = R \rho R$ with ρ 's as indicated in Theorem 3.2 and part (i) above to add to the class of positive operators with range in \mathcal{S} whose partial transpose at level j is not positive.
- (iii) For $1 \leq j \leq k$ and $1 \leq j' \leq k$ with $j \neq j'$ let $\mathcal{N}_{j,j'}$ be the set of NPT_j states obtained in Theorem 3.2 together with those by methods indicated in (i) and (ii) above. Put

$$\mathcal{N} = \bigcup_{\substack{1 \leq j \leq k \\ 1 \leq j' \leq k \\ j \neq j'}} \mathcal{N}_{j,j'}.$$

Then each ρ in \mathcal{N} has range in the subspace \mathcal{S} and has a non-positive partial transpose at some level.

- (iv) Johnston [Joh13] asked the following question.

What is the maximum dimension μ of a subspace with the property that any state with range in the subspace has at least one partial transpose which is non-positive.

Let us call a subspace \mathcal{E} of \mathcal{H} satisfying this criteria an NPT space.

- (v) Let \mathcal{E} be a subspace of \mathcal{H} . If $\{\rho : \rho \text{ is a state with range in } \mathcal{E}\}$ is contained in \mathcal{N} , then $\mathcal{E} \subset \mathcal{S}$ and \mathcal{E} is NPT . In particular, If $\mathcal{N} = \{\rho : \rho \text{ is a state with range in } \mathcal{S}\}$, then \mathcal{S} is NPT . If that be so, then the answer to Johnston's question is

$$\mu = M = d_1 d_2 \cdots d_k - (d_1 + d_2 + \cdots + d_k) + k - 1.$$

This question still remains open, but the progress made in this paper above does show that \mathcal{N} is substantially large.

4. CONCLUSION

Let \mathcal{S} be a concrete completely entangled subspace of maximal dimension, in $\mathcal{H} = \bigotimes_{j=1}^k \mathcal{H}_j$ with $2 \leq d_j = \dim \mathcal{H}_j < \infty$ for $1 \leq j \leq k$, constructed by Parthasarathy [Par04]. Let $P_{\mathcal{S}}$ be the projection on this space. We realized that the particular orthonormal basis \mathcal{B} for \mathcal{S} for the bipartite case of equal dimensions obtained by Parthasarathy [Par04] helps us to prove that $P_{\mathcal{S}}$ is not positive under partial transpose. For any fixed j and j' with $1 \leq j \neq j' \leq k$, we developed techniques to construct a suitable orthonormal basis \mathcal{C} for \mathcal{S} for the multipartite case utilizing \mathcal{B} in the process. This enabled us to prove that $P_{\mathcal{S}}$ is not positive under partial transpose at level j . We next extended this to certain positive operators ρ 's with range contained in \mathcal{S} . This generalizes a substantial part of the corresponding result of Johnston [Joh13] for the bipartite case. Even after varying j and j' and clubbing all ρ 's, the question whether there are any states with support in \mathcal{S} that are PPT_j for each j , $1 \leq j \leq k$, remains open. However, in this paper we have made substantial progress in the direction of obtaining an answer. Further results on this issue will be presented elsewhere.

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